



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF AN URGENT CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS,

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

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TO THE FIGHTERS BELONG THE SPOILS

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 2.—For many years the members of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees have had to struggle for the right to exist and in practically every city where they have attempted to get a foothold they have had to withstand the meanest and most vicious persecution and coercion. It is organization has probably had to fight harder for the "rights of association" than possibly any other organization of working men. With these experiences it was not surprising that a hard fight had to be made in order to get a foothold in Boston. The gratifying report is now at hand that the strike of the Conductors and Motormen of the Boston Elevated Railway Company which lasted for 53 days was ended on the evening of July 28 by the agreement of the company officials to the terms of settlement. The striking Street Railway Men winning every point they had contended for. It is to be hoped that these officials in future will not put their company to such an expense and the city to such an annoyance by refusing to recognize organization amongst the employees, but that they will follow the example set by the management of 46 other municipal and interurban street railway systems that have peacefully negotiated new agreements with the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees during the first six months of 1912. These 46 new agreements brought increased wages to 15,000 Street Railway men. The aggregate annual increase involved amounts to over \$570,000 and the officials of the organization declares that "No strikes resulted in any of these negotiations." This official report demonstrates the successful fruition and the beneficial results of persistent, active, militant trade unionism. During the first six months of 1912 the association has paid 142 death benefits, aggregating \$65,850, and four disability benefits of \$600, making a total of \$66,450.

BROCKTON SHOE-CUTTERS WAGES INCREASED

Washington, Aug. 2.—The shoe cutters of Brockton, Mass., recently secured an increase in wages of 25 cents per day. The hand cutters and sorters wages are now \$19.50 per week, top cutters, \$16.50 per week, and machine workers \$21.00 for a week of fifty-four hours. The Brockton cutters have been benefited from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per week since their organization was effected in that district. They are reaping a continuous dividend of from 1200 to 1800 per cent on their investment of 25 cents per week as dues to the organization. The boot and shoe workers chartered five new unions during the month of June, one of them at Amherst, N. S., and an other at St. Johns, N. F.

LABOR ITEMS WARM AND CRISP

REAL UPLIFT BY LABOR

Washington, Aug. 3.--It is well occasionally to ask the question in an honest and inquiring manner: "What are the labor organizations of America doing?" Critics, corping critics, hostile pessimists and political partizans frequently ask this question sarcastically and viciously. Then they hasten to answer it themselves with a sneer and a snarl and say "nothing". It is well therefore that a birds-eye view should be taken of the real actual progress being made throughout the country by the organizations of labor through their local efforts and by means of their local machinery. The following items are gleaned from correspondence and reports which have reached the offices of the American Federation of Labor within the last four weeks. From here, there and everywhere or wherever local trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor exist, there, genuine progress is a result:

Argonia, Ark.--Carpenters increased their wages 50¢ per hour without strike. The scale is now 50¢ per hour.

San Francisco, Cal.--Bakers secured eight-hour day and use of the bakers' label through a short strike. Master Bakers have been fined by the courts for violating the state bakeshop law.

Stockton, Cal.--Cooks and Waiters' unionized 13 of the very best establishments in the city. Butchers and Bakers have nearly a 100% organization. Plumbers secured \$1 per week increase after eight days' strike. Painters obtained 50¢ per day increase without strike.

Haddon, Ga.--Plumbers recently obtained an increase, their rate now being 50¢ per hour. Carpenters obtained the nine-hour day at \$3.15 without strike.

Carlinville, Ill.--Teamsters increased their wage scale from \$4.50 to \$5 per day.

Kankakee, Ill.--Carpenters and Painters increased wages 5¢ per hour without strike.

Bicknell, Ind.--Printers secured advance of \$2 per week without any trouble.

Port Wayne, Ind.--Painters and Carpenters gained an increase of 10% in wages without strike.

Sioux City, Ia.--Sheet Metal Workers increased their wage rate to 45¢ per hour without strike. Carpenters secured increase of 5¢ per hour and doubled their membership. Plumbers received increased wage scale as result of short strike.

Coffeyville, Kans.--Carpenters and Painters secured increase in wages without strike.

Lawrence, Kans.--The 8-hour day has been secured in most trades without reduction in the wage scale.

D. Millinocket, Me.--Union shop agreements, with a wage increase of 5% to run for two years, secured without strike.

Milford, Mass.--Carpenters obtained Saturday half holiday for four months in 1912 and all year around for 1913, and increased wages 4¢ per hour without strike.

Quincy, Mass.--Carpenters, Plumbers and Masons secured advance in wages without strike.

Worcester, Mass.--Forty-four hour week established for all building trades. Painters, Plumbers and Bricklayers won an increased wage scale. Granite Cutters won strike for increased wages negotiating a five year contract with a scale beginning at 42¢ and increasing 2¢ per hour each May until 1917. Police officials organized and increased their pay from \$2.75 to \$3. per day, the unions assisting them.

Lansing, Mich.--Printers obtained increase of \$1 per week for the next two years and an additional dollar per week for the following two years.

Minneapolis, Minn.--Electric linemen obtained \$2 per month increase in wages and double time for all overtime from the St. Paul Gas Light Company.

St. Louis, Mo.--Hoisting Engineers received an increase of 10¢ per hour without strike.

Omaha--All employes in breweries obtained increase of \$2 per week.

New Brunswick, N. J., Carpenters secured increase of 5¢ per hour after a strike of a half day.

Auburn, N. Y.--Meat Cutters reduced working hours from an unlimited number, which formerly prevailed, to a 16 hour day on five days in the week and 12 hours on Saturdays.

Binghamton, N. Y.--Plumbers obtained increase of 25¢ per day. Brewery Workers gained increase of \$2 per week. Rod Carriers obtained increase of 25¢ per day.

Rochester, N. Y.--Boilermakers and Painters increased wages 50¢ per day without strike.

Pargo, N. D.--Painters increased wages 7½¢ and Carpenters 12½¢ without strike.

Cincinnati, O.--Signwriters secured Saturday half holiday and increased wages averaging from 75¢ to \$2 per day after a short strike. Moving picture machine operators gained substantial increase in wages without strike.

Cleveland, O.--Asbestos Workers obtained a substantial increase in wages and full recognition of union, because of a 100% organization in Cleveland.

Cleveland, O.--Plumbers increased wages from \$4.50 to \$5 per day and won the Saturday half holiday after a strike of one week.

E. Liverpool, O.--Street Car men obtained increase in wages and improved their working conditions without strike.

Marietta, O.--Leather Workers on Horse Goods succeeded in getting the employers to adopt the union label on horse goods manufactured there.

Pomeroy, O.--Carpenters won the eight-hour day and increased wages from \$2.75 to \$3.00 without strike.

Springfield, O.--Brewery Workers established the eight-hour day. This is the tenth trade in Springfield working eight hours.

Steubenville, O.--Bricklayers and Teamsters secured a substantial increase in wages. Street Car Employes obtained an increase through arbitration.

Baileyville, Okla.--City Laborers increased wages and decreased hours, rate now being \$2 per day of eight hours instead of \$1.50 for 10 hours.

Lancaster, Pa.--Plumbers won an increase of 3½¢ per hour after a short strike.

Pittsburgh, Pa.--Painters established the 44-hour week and increased wages 20¢ per day, making their scale 52½¢ per hour. This is an increase of 60¢ per day over the scale for 1911 and the scale for 1913 provides for 20¢ per day more. Sheet Metal Workers negotiated new agreements for two years with improved working conditions and 2½¢ per hour increase in wages. Electrical Workers increased wages 2½¢ per hour up to January, 1913, when they will get another increase of 5¢ per hour. Agreement lasts for two years. Street Railway Employes obtained from 2½¢ to 3¢ per hour, agreement running for two years.

Elma, Wash.--Obtained an eight-hour ordinance from City Council for all public employees.

Olympia, Wash.--Shingle Weavers won a $\frac{1}{2}\%$ per thousand increase without strike and organized a new local at Middleboro. They also won increased wages in Sack.

LaCrosse, Wis.--Teamsters increased wages for drivers to \$65 per month and helpers to \$60. Cement Workers made a new contract at 40¢ per hour for finishers and 25¢ an hour for helpers.

Showorgan, Wis.--Carpenters increased wages 3¢ per hour, making the rate 44¢ per hour for an eight hour day. Electrical Workers won all their demands after a strike lasting one day.

Madison, Wis.--Carpenters increased wages 2 $\frac{1}{2}\%$ per hour. Engineers advanced from 40¢ and 50¢ to 56 $\frac{1}{2}\%$ per hour without strike.

Quebec, Canada--Carpenters and Painters increased wages 5¢ per hour, without strike.

Saskatoon, Canada--Plumbers increased wages from 60¢ to 65¢ per hour without strike. The Painters changed their wage rate from a 40¢ per hour maximum to a 40¢ per hour minimum. Carpenters increased minimum rate 5¢ per hour. No strikes.

----- MINE WORKERS ACTIVE -----

Indianapolis, Aug. 3--The United Mine Workers have recently organized 15 new locals in Pennsylvania, Indiana and West Virginia.

----- TAILORS PROSPERING -----

Bloomington, Ill., Aug. 3.--The Tailors have organized new locals at Lawrence, Boston and Worcester, Mass. New agreements with increased wages were made at San Francisco, Cal., Seattle, Wash., St. Louis, Mo. Chicago, Ill., and New York City.

----- SHINGLE WEAVERS BUSY -----

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 3.--The strike at Bordeau, Wash., for a guaranteed wage scale was won after the crews were out one week. Strike began about two weeks ago in the shingle mills of Portland, Ore., to enforce payment of a minimum wage scale in all branches of the craft. Two of the mills have acceded to the demands. Expect another to settle shortly. New trade agreements are being signed every day. Mills of Wisconsin and Michigan closing down or running short handed because of inability to secure competent weavers. New locals organized at Dollarville, Mich., Blaine and Mineral, Wash.

----- CHIPS FROM THE CARPENTERS -----

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 3.--The carpenters at Newata have increased wages from 45¢ to 50¢ per hour without strike. The Roof and Bridge Carpenters of Boston, Mass., have increased wages from \$3.28 to \$3.70 per day, no strike. At Meadville, Pa., the eight-hour day was gained at the old minimum rate of \$3 per day. At Elmhurst, Ind., 3¢ per hour increase was obtained without strike. At Salem, Ill., wages were increased 5¢ per hour, without strike. At Rutland, Vt., the eight-hour workday has been established after a short strike. At Michigan City, Ind., wages were increased 5¢ per hour and the eight-hour working day established in place of nine hours per day, - no strike. At Mason City, Iowa, wages were increased from 35¢ to 40¢ per hour.

AGGRESSIVE PLASTERERS PROSPEROUS

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 3.—The Operative Plasterers International Association has granted charter to new locals at Steubenville, O., Johnstown, Pa., Albion, Iowa, York, Pa., Hazelton, Pa., Ocean Park, Cal.,ureka, Cal., Hagerstown, Md., and Detroit, Mich. New scales and increased wages were secured at the following places: Chicago, Ill., increase 50¢ per day, Detroit, Mich., \$5 per day minimum, Sharon, Pa., \$4.50 minimum, Lowell, Mass., 44 hour week, \$4.40 per day minimum, Columbus, O., all disputes settled and all members back to work. Ottawa, Canada, 5¢ per hour increase obtained. Moose Jaw, Canada, 60¢ per hour minimum secured. Champaign and Urbana, Ill., 70¢ per hour demanded. Hamilton, O., \$4.50 per day secured. Allentown, Pa., secured increase of 50¢ per day. Cumberland, Md., secured an increase of 25¢ per day, another increase of 25¢ becomes effective September 16. At Chicago, Ill., Winnipeg and Regina, Canada 70¢ per hour is demanded. 56¢ per hour minimum secured at Windsor, Ont. 50¢ per day increase demanded at Waukegan, Ill. 60¢ per hour and Saturday half holiday demanded at Port Arthur and Port William, Canada. The lowest wages paid to Plasterers is at Cincinnati, O., the rate there being \$3.06 for a nine hour day and at Reading, Pa., the rate is \$3.20 for an eight hour day. The highest rates are in California and the inter-mountain states where the minimum wage is \$7 per day or 87½¢ per hour, with the eight-hour day and a week of 44-hours with Saturday half holiday the year round. The number of members in good standing at last report in the Operative Association was 15,314.

GRANITE CUTTERS VICTORY

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 3.—After a contest of eight weeks by the Detroit branch of the Granite Cutters' International Association a settlement has been reached by which a new agreement has been made increasing wages from a \$3.25 minimum for an eight-hour day to a minimum of \$3.50 for the first year and a \$3.60 minimum for the following three years to round out a four year agreement. The Detroit Granite Cutters also secured a Saturday half holiday as well as substantial and improved changes in sanitation and workshop conditions. The employers made some efforts to secure non-union men but those they obtained who possessed mechanical skill joined the union when they found there was a suspension on, and those who were not skilled were of course, no use to the employers. The Granite Cutting Employers in Detroit and vicinity have now a much higher respect for their employes and for union men than ever before.

OUTCOME OF GERMAN STRIKES

Washington, Aug. 3.—Recent data at hand discloses that 2,566 strikes and lockouts took place in Germany in 1911. 217,809 employes were involved in 10,640 establishments. Dissatisfaction with wages caused 1964 strikes for 182,680 workmen. 752 strikes for 83,695 workers were for shorter hours. It is reported that 12% of the strikes were fully successful, 62½% partially successful and 25½% unsuccessful. 9,371 local unions, embracing 2,168,332 members, are affiliated with the German Federation of Labor. During 1911 only 510 local branches of the national unions were not affiliated with the Central Labor Bodies (Cartels) of their respective communities.

"FLINTS" COMING BACK

Washington, Aug. 3.--At the Montreal convention of the Flint Glass Workers delegates were elected to represent that organization at the next convention of the American Federation of Labor, the delegates being President Rowe, Secretary Clarke and C. F. Green of Toledo. All the old officials of the organization were re-elected except National Organizer Concoy of Alexandria who is succeeded by Joseph Gillsboly of Grafton, W. Va. A resolution was unanimously adopted by the delegates thanking the joint committees of the Flint Glass Workers and the Green Glass Bottle Blowers who negotiated the new agreement and who made unity of the two organizations possible, thus marking the end of the long internal war between these two powerful organizations.

COST AND PROFIT OF ANTHRACITE COAL

Washington, Aug. 3.--At the instance of Congressman Diefenderfer a resolution passed the House of Representatives July 29, directing the United States Bureau of Labor to obtain full information concerning the different elements of cost and profit included in the present high price of anthracite coal, specifying in detail how much the coal miners were benefited by the recent strike agreement, and how much and for what reasons and by what means the cost of coal to the general public was at the same time increased out of proportion to the raise of wages granted the miners. It is estimated that the miners by their new agreement will receive in the aggregate \$5,000,000 more wages per year and that the anthracite coal trust by raising the price to the consumers will obtain an aggregate of \$15,000,000 annually.

CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Ottawa, Can., Aug. 3.--The Labor Department of Canada reports it has obtained data showing there are 123,122 organized workers in the Dominion. 66,542 are members of 1,159 local unions belonging to international organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. 32,873 are members of 293 local unions of internationals not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and 13,717 are members of 191 local unions chartered directly by the Canadian Trades and Labor Council and the Canadian Federation of Labor.

BRICKLAYERS AND AFFILIATION

Washington, Aug. 3.--The Bricklayers and Masons International Union will shortly take a referendum vote of the members on the question of affiliating with the American Federation of Labor. The International officers are favorably disposed towards affiliation. This is the fourth time the question has been submitted to the membership for a referendum vote. There are 969 local unions with a membership of 75,914 in the International Union.

WINNINGS BY ORGANIZER TERRY

Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 3.--The many friends of William E. Terry, General Organizer A. F. of L. will be pleased to learn that he was happily married on July 24 to Miss Anna Horrigan of Jacksonville, Fla. Organized labor of the city was well represented at the ceremony, especially the Sheet Metal Workers for whom Mr. Terry had succeeded in securing an increase of 35¢ per day and a union shop two days before the wedding.

SPANISH STEVEDORES WIN STRIKE

Washington, Aug. 3.--The strike of Stevedores and Freight Handlers that recently stopped all traffic at the Port of Malaga, Spain, for a period of two weeks has been won by the workmen. The employers yielded to the union demands regarding a higher scale of wages and more pay for overtime. The organizations of labor are steadily increasing their membership in Spain and increases in wages in all departments of industry are steadily being obtained as a result. The Spanish unions are subject to official regulation and inquiry into their affairs. All their meetings are attended by a representative of the civil authority of the Province who acts as a censor, but in spite of this handicap the workers are improving their conditions.

MARBLE WORKERS OFFICIALS

Washington, Aug. 3.--The International Association of Marble Workers which recently held its regular convention at Toronto elected the following officials: Walter V. Price of New York City, General President. Wm. J. Cowan of Pittsburgh, Pa., V.-P. Stephen C. Hogan of New York City, Secy.-Treas. Members general executive board H. S. Knox, Los Angeles, Cal.; T. McCullough, Forest Park; Tll., Albert S. Mann, St. Paul, Minn.; George Rankin, Cleveland, O.; George Crealey, St. Louis, Mo.; Harry Jansen, Kansas City, Mo. Oscar Gast, Buffalo, N. Y. The Marble Workers now have 97 locals in good standing and the organization is in a prosperous condition.

WISCONSIN STATE FEDERATION

Sheboygan, Wis., Aug. 3.--The Wisconsin State Federation recently held its 20th annual convention in this city. Ninety delegates from twenty Wisconsin cities were present, representing 146 local unions. The secretary reported a balance in the treasury on July 1, 1912 of \$2,747. Frederick Brockhausen who has held office as Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years declined to stand for re-election. John J. Handley, a machinist, of Milwaukee, was elected to succeed him. Frank J. Weber of Milwaukee was re-elected state organizer, he announced that he would retire from office next year.

GROWTH OF PAINTERS

Lafayette, Ind. Aug. 3.--During the six months ending June 30, the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators organized 48 new local unions, the organization now having 944 local unions in good standing. The international paid out \$20,700 to its members as death and disability benefits during the month of May.

TELEPHONE GIRLS ORGANIZING

Springfield, Mass.--Aug 3.--The telephone girls of this city have organized a union with 250 members, having taken heart by the recent success of the telephone girls in Boston. Officials of the telephone company are reported as saying that they are not opposed to the movement.

TIN PLATE WORKERS GET INCREASE

Pollansbee, W. Va., Aug. 3.--The Tin Plate Workers of this place have secured an increase of 3% over their last year's scale. No strike.

COOPERS EXPANDING

Kansas City, Kans.--Aug. 3.--The Coopers' International Union issued charters for new locals at Halifax, Nova Scotia and Panguitch, Ark., during the month of June. The local union of Pittsburg, Pa., succeeded in getting all their contracts signed for the coming year and everything is running smoothly for the Coopers in Pittsburg. The strike in the Boston Breweries involving 51 members, has been satisfactorily settled. The men will receive the Saturday half holiday for the months of June, July and August with no reduction in pay. The Emrich Cooperage Company of Evansville signed an agreement granting an increase in prices. The Beer Barrel Coopers are still on strike in the Milwaukee Breweries, the demand being, an increase in wages of 7½¢ per hour.

LAND MONOPOLY ATTACKED

Sydney, N. S. W., Aug. 3.--Land values taxation on undeveloped land is rapidly breaking up the large estates in Australia. Since the tax was imposed large estates to the value of \$90,000,000 have been subdivided and sold. The land is now better used and feeds more people. The public treasury of the Australian states has profited to the extent of \$7,500,000.

THE "BLUE TAG" SYSTEM MUST GO

Washington, Aug. 3.--The senate committee on postoffice and post roads has decided to stop the "blue tag system" under which considerable second class mail has been tagged and sent by freight. The amendment will require the Postmaster General to send all second class mail matter by regular mail service instead of by freight. This action of the senate committee is in response to the combined demands made by editors of trade union, fraternal organization journals, and other publications.

AVIATORS' LOW WAGES

Washington, Aug. 3.--It is said that in Germany there are so many flying machines that the men who operate them have an organization of their own called the League of German Aviators. This league has been the means through which the aviators have made a concerted demand for a higher rate of pay. The sum demanded is modest, considering the risks involved in operating airships. The demand is for only 300 marks per month, which is less than \$75. This is the limit fixed for taking long chances with death in the ordinary course of their occupation. Some of the aviators have been paid as little as 150 marks per month, or about \$37.

WEAVERS' RAISE IN EFFECT

London, Aug. 3.--A further advance in the wages of the Lancashire weavers went into effect July 1, this increase being 5 per cent. In addition to the weavers, the numerous other vocations, smaller in proportion, but equally entitled, will receive proportional increases.

BELFAST SMITHS' WAGES

Belfast, Aug. 3.--The ship smiths have secured a penny an hour increase and 5 per cent added to piece work earnings. Engine smiths have received an advance of 1 shilling per week and 2½ per cent added to piece work earnings. This establishes a minimum rate of 39s. 3d per week.

STILL THEY COME

Washington, Aug. 3.—Among politicians several decades ago, one of the most charming swan songs warbled by them when referring to the question of immigrants and immigration was that: "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm", and at the same time those same politicians were busily engaged in letting Uncle Sam's farm go to railroad companies as subsidies and other speculators who greedily grabbed the public domain. Since 1820, 29,611,052 immigrants have landed upon our shores, and to the millions who have come in the last decade, practically none have had an opportunity to obtain one of Uncle Sam's free farms. The June Bulletin of the Immigration Bureau reports that the influx of Southern Italians was 22,244; Northern Italians, 2,141; Poles, 11,959; Germans, 6,085; Hebrews, 7,857; Irish, 2,812; Greeks, 2,593; English, 4,399; Scandinavians, 2,618; Croatians and Slovenians, 2,611; Slovaks, 2,722; Magyars, 2,263; Lithuanians, 2,276; and several thousand others divided among twenty-eight nationalities; total admitted during month, 92,425; total for year ending June, 1912, was 833,172. The numbers and vocations of those comprising this immigration who arrived during the year show that very few really sought the mythical free farm from Uncle Sam as 11,034, were carpenters, 12,585 were clerks and accountants, 116,529 were servants, 319,101 were common laborers, and 10,000 were miners. The number debarred by the immigration agents during the month of June as likely to become a public charge was 1,482, and for the fiscal year the number debarred was 22,349. It will be noted that the great industrial states got the greatest number of immigrants as for instance, N. Y. got 27,446 during the month of June, Penn. coming next with 13,047, Mass., 8,533, Ill., 7,522, N. J., 5,221, while farming states like S. C. and Ky only obtained 22 and 70 respectively. In spite of this tremendous influx of foreign workmen continually coming in competition with the workers of the United States, the House of Representatives absolutely refuses to enact the "Illiteracy Test Bill", or any other reasonable form of immigration restriction law, because of the leadership of a few men in the congested centers from New York, Philadelphia and Chicago.

TEXTILE WORKERS SUCCESSSES

Washington, Aug. 3.—Mr. Mahan, of the Providence Folders Association, reports that in every important Bleachery, Print House and Die House, a minimum wage of \$15.00 per week of fifty-six hours is being paid to union men. Previous to organization, the highest wages paid was \$2.00 a day for a sixty hour week. Mr. McDonnell, President of the Philadelphia Local, reports that the wages of union dyers have advanced from 10 to 40 per cent; that 35 shops in that city are now paying a minimum of 25 cents per hour. Previous to organization, the maximum wage paid to dyers in Philadelphia was \$12.00 for a week of sixty hours. The dye house workers at Thompsonville, Conn., have not yet succeeded in settling their differences with the Hartford Carpet Corporation.

O. R. T. GROWING

Washington, Aug. 3.—731 new members were admitted into the Order of Railway Telegraphers during last month.

POST OFFICE CLERKS ORGANIZING RIGHT

Washington, Aug. 3.—The National Federation of Post Office Clerks organized a new local with fifty chartered members at Cleveland, Ohio, last month.

EIGHT HOURS FOR DREDGEMEN

Washington, Aug. 3.—The eight hour bill for Dredgemen which the American Federation of Labor has urged for several years, was passed by the House of Representatives without a dissenting vote on July 31. This bill is expected to overcome the ruling of the Supreme Court when it decided that such persons as Dredgemen did not come within the scope of the Eight-hour Act of 1892. During the progress of the bill through the house Miss Agnes E. Wilson, Secretary to the House Committee on Labor, assisted her father, Mr. William B. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee, and while the bill was under consideration she sat next to the Representative who frequently advised with her as the debate progressed. Miss Wilson, like her father, is an active trade unionist and is a member of the Stenographers and Bookkeepers' Union of Washington, D. C. This is the first time a woman has sat in the House while it was in session.

MILITANT HOLDERS

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 3.—President Joseph F. Valentine of the Iron Holders' Union reports that never in all his experience has he seen so much activity among the molders for better conditions and higher wages and that the officials of the international are being kept extremely busy, attending conferences and assisting the local membership. He also says that a number of very fine agreements and understandings have been reached with foundry managers in many districts, particularly at Pittsburgh, Pa., where a minimum of \$3.75 a day for molders and core makers has been secured and an advance of 25¢ per day for all who receive a higher rate than the minimum \$3.75.

COTTON INDUSTRY IN JAPAN

Washington, Aug. 3.—The cotton spinning and weaving industry in Japan is expanding by leaps and bounds. During the last fiscal year eight new corporations were formed with a capital of \$6,280,000 and operating 133,000 new spindles. Many of the old companies have increased their capital and have added new machinery to their plants. The Japan Cotton Spinners Association report for March 1912 that they had 32 mills operating 1,867,026 spindles, running 26 days a month, working 23 hours a day, producing a daily average of 12½ ounces for ring spindles and 8½ ounces for mule spindles. They consumed during the month 46,828,283 pounds of cotton, employ 17,967 males and 79,124 females, paying the males an average of 23¢ per day and the females 15¢ a day. This is equivalent to an increase of almost 5% over the wages paid during the year 1911. If this industry continues to expand in Japan and China with the same relative proportion the prospects for the export trade to those countries in the cotton industry of the United States and Great Britain will be very materially restricted.

EUROPEAN WORKERS BUSY

Washington, Aug. 3.—Employment in European industries for the months of May and June continue good and show improvement over the previous months and of the same months a year ago. The following returns are based upon official trade union reports. Unemployed for June in Great Britain 2.6%; France unemployed for May 5.6%; Germany for May 1.9%; Holland for May 3.0%; Belgium for May 1.3%; Denmark for May 4.0%. In the United States the only unemployed figures obtainable for this

ATTENTION!

Workers in the Iron and Steel Industry

Now is the time when you, the wage-workers in the iron and steel industry, must feel and know how helpless you have become. You have acted as individuals. Do you know and feel how powerful you could become if you were to unite and become organized?

Because of your unorganized condition you have become the victims of low wages, long hours of labor, working under most onerous conditions, and this, despite the fact that the cost of living has constantly increased so that the wages paid you can not nearly, much less adequately, meet it. You are powerless to protect yourselves against accidents which are frequent, against sickness which comes to you often, against idleness because of industrial depression, against the ills with which the workers in all industries have at times to contend, particularly when unorganized. Most of these ills can be minimized, or eliminated, when you unite.

All of the ills incident to your industry can not be abolished at once, but they can be changed and reduced by thorough organization of all the workers in the great iron and steel industries regardless of whether you are the highest skilled mechanics or unskilled laborers.

The time is at hand when the iron and steel workers, regardless of their mechanical ability, their creed, color, or nationality, should be bound together by a true spirit of fraternity and solidarity—features which are essential if you hope to abolish wrongs, attain rights, and improve conditions.

The American Federation of Labor has but one purpose for its existence—to protect the rights and to promote the interests and welfare of the working people of our country, that they may be justly dealt with, and that the workers may take the position in life and in our affairs which is justly their due.

The officers and organizers of the American Federation of Labor have from time to time organized and attempted to organize the iron and steel workers in various places where the industry is located, but because the iron and steel corporations are financially so powerful, it was an easy matter for them to close down the plants where the organizing work was being carried on and to discharge those workers who showed any desire for, or gave any assistance toward, forming a union, thus disrupting the union and starving their employees into submission.

The American Federation of Labor has decided to put into operation a plan to organize all the skilled and unskilled workers in the iron and steel industry, which only needs the support of the workers to insure its success. The plan is as follows:

This will be known as Circular No. 1, and is to inform you of the plan to organize. It will be followed by another circular—Circular No. 2—which will explain the aims and objects of organized labor and describe in part the conditions of the mill workers at the present time, as well as outline what can be accomplished by thorough organization.

After you have read this circular and Circular No. 2 and given them earnest consideration, Circular No. 3 will follow.

Circular No. 3 will be distributed at the same time in various ways to all workers in the iron and steel industry in the United States and Canada. It will inform all workers the day and date of a meeting, and the name and address of the place in which the meeting will be held, so that all will have the opportunity of attending the meeting, and when you attend, you will understand that similar meetings are being held in every town, village and hamlet in America where the iron and steel plants are located.

The objects of having the meetings the same day and date is to effectually prevent discrimination. If you are true to yourselves and to each other, you will be in attendance at these meetings.

The circulars will be printed in the languages spoken by the employees in the mill industry.

You could render much assistance to this movement started in your own interests, if, when writing to your friends and relatives across the water, you advise them that it would be to their advantage if they did not come to America for a year or two.

Read this circular carefully and hand it to your friends, and watch for Circular No. 2 and Circular No. 3.

Most of the iron and steel workers have from time to time shown a desire to organize. If you hope in the near future to protect your own rights and promote your own interests, the time and opportunity are now at hand.

Fellow-workers, give heed. Let the spirit of unity and fraternity sink deep into your hearts and minds. Organize, Unite, Federate!

Fraternally yours,



Frank Morrison

Secretary, A. F. of L.

Samuel Gompers

President, A. F. of L.

